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Zampielo

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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR LOGGING COMMUNICATIONS**

(71) Applicant: **AT&T Intellectual Property I, L.P.**,
Atlanta, GA (US)

(72) Inventor: **Geoffrey Zampielo**, Norwalk, CT (US)

(73) Assignee: **AT&T Intellectual Property I, L.P.**,
Atlanta, GA (US)

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H04L 29/06 (2006.01)
G06F 17/30 (2006.01)
H04L 29/08 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **H04L 61/2514** (2013.01); **G06F 17/30864** (2013.01); **H04L 29/12367** (2013.01); **H04L 63/08** (2013.01); **H04L 63/1425** (2013.01); **H04L 63/30** (2013.01); **H04L 63/308** (2013.01); **H04L 67/104** (2013.01); **H04L 67/22** (2013.01); **H04L 67/24** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC . H04L 61/2514; H04L 63/1425; H04L 63/30; H04L 29/12367; H04L 47/2441; H04L 47/10

See application file for complete search history.

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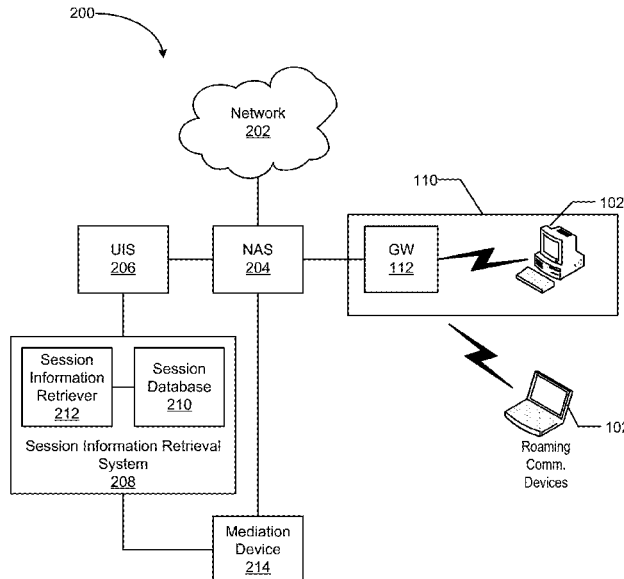
Primary Examiner — Jackie Zuniga Abad

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Akerman LLP; Michael K. Dixon; Mammen (Roy) P. Zachariah, Jr.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for logging communication includes determining when a target user is active and identifying an access device and private Internet Protocol (IP) address associated with the target user when the target user is active. The method further includes causing the access device to provide traffic information associated with the target user to a logging device.

20 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



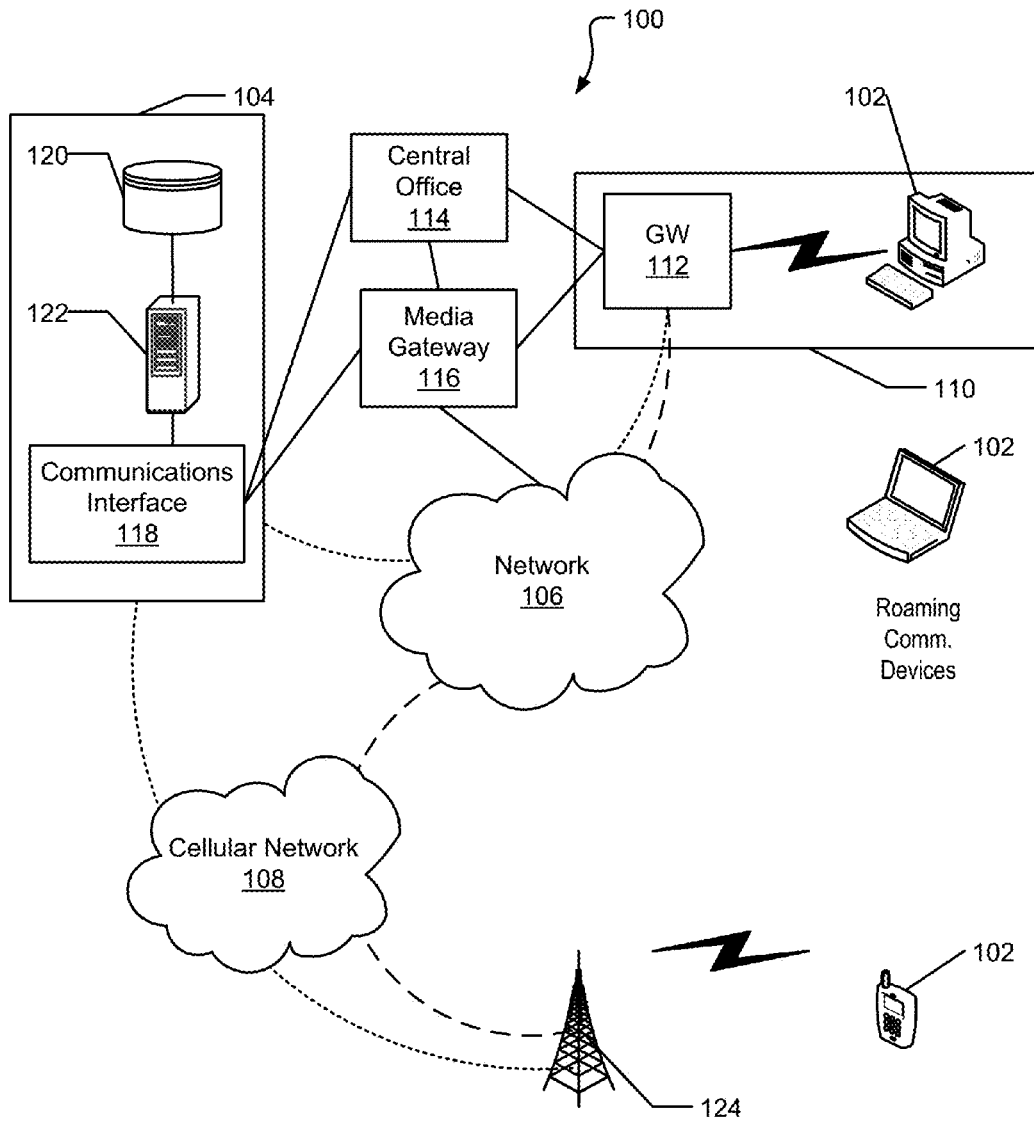


FIG. 1

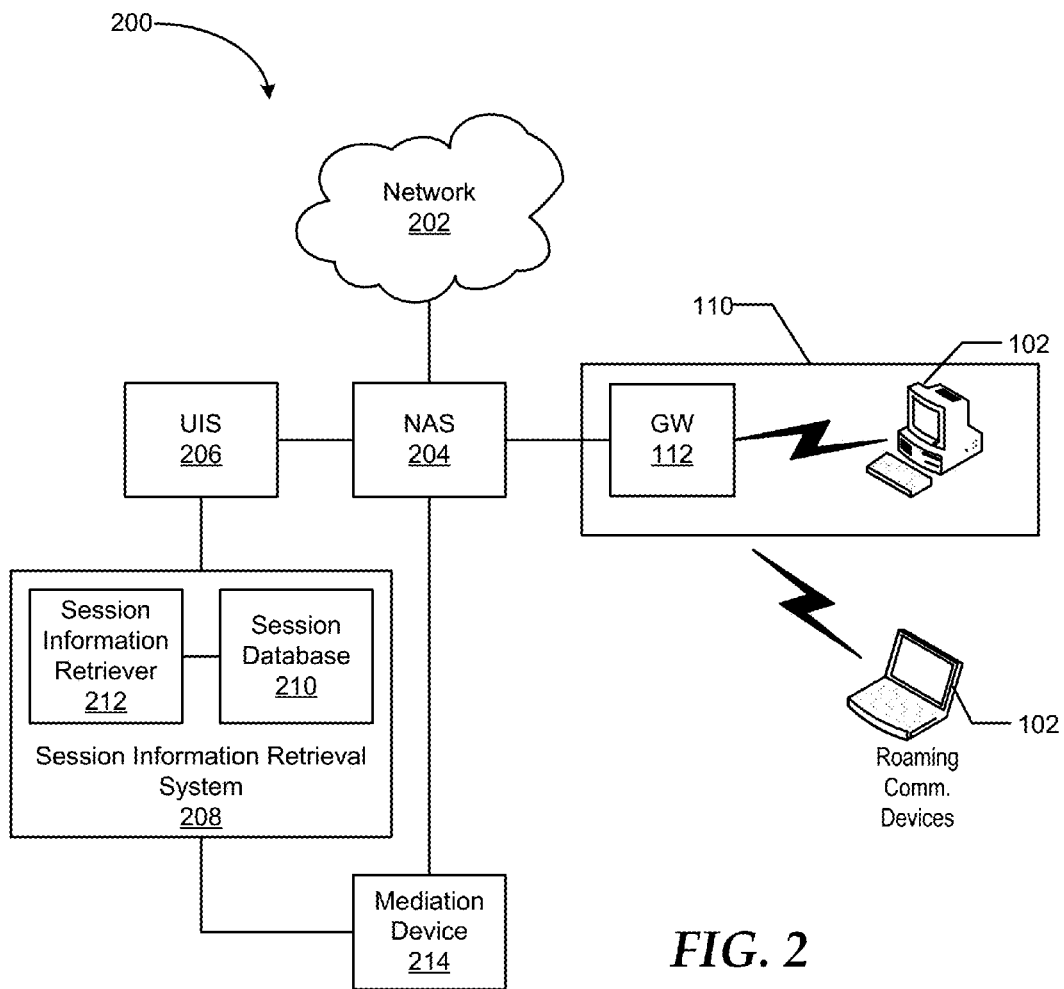


FIG. 2

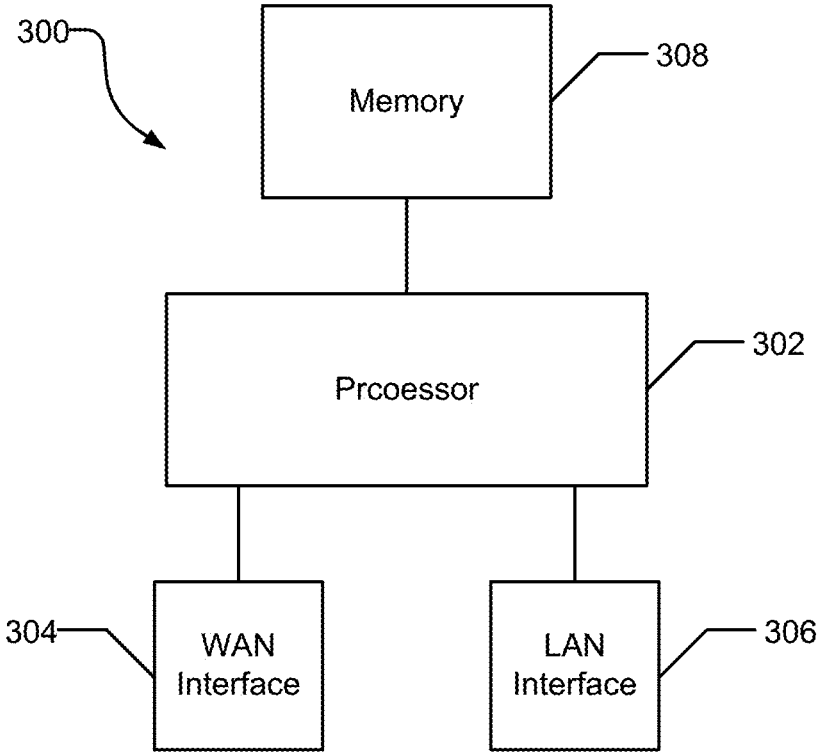


FIG. 3

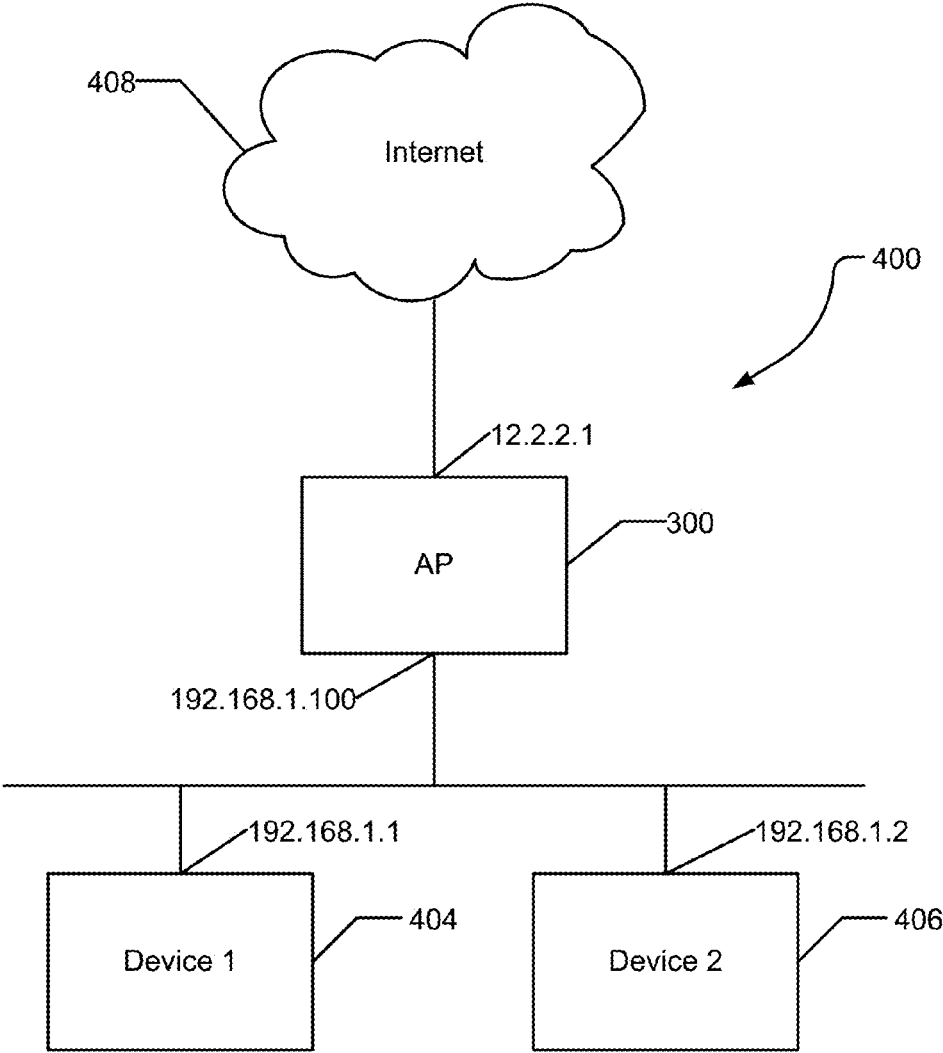


FIG. 4

The diagram shows a table with six columns and four rows. A large bracket labeled 500 spans the entire table. Arrows labeled 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, and 514 point to the column headers: Private IP, Private Port, NAT IP, NAT Port, Server IP, and Server Port, respectively. On the left side, four arrows labeled 502 point to the first column (Private IP) of each row.

Private IP	Private Port	NAT IP	NAT Port	Server IP	Server Port
192.168.1.1	1256	12.2.2.1	1385	144.160.103.104	80
192.168.1.1	1394	12.2.2.1	1267	72.14.207.99	25
192.168.1.2	1394	12.2.2.1	1236	216.109.1112.135	80
192.168.1.2	1716	12.2.2.1	1652	17.149.160.49	143

FIG. 5

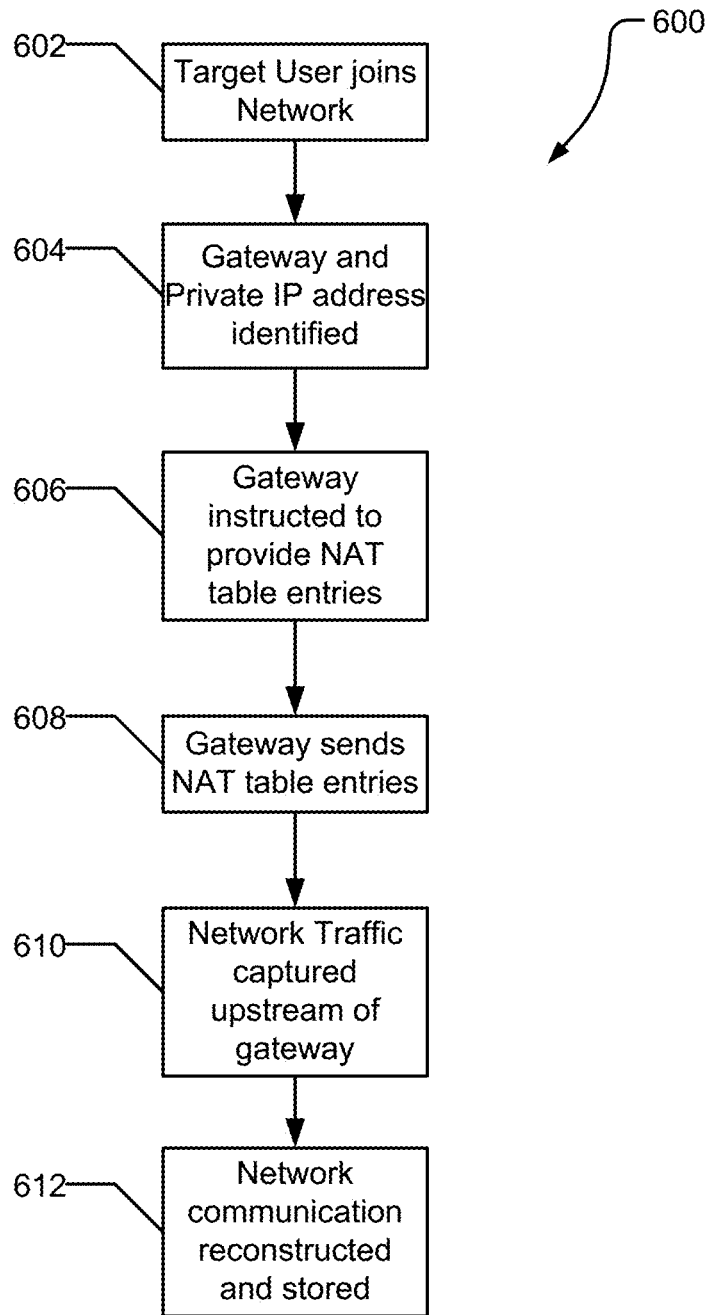


FIG. 6

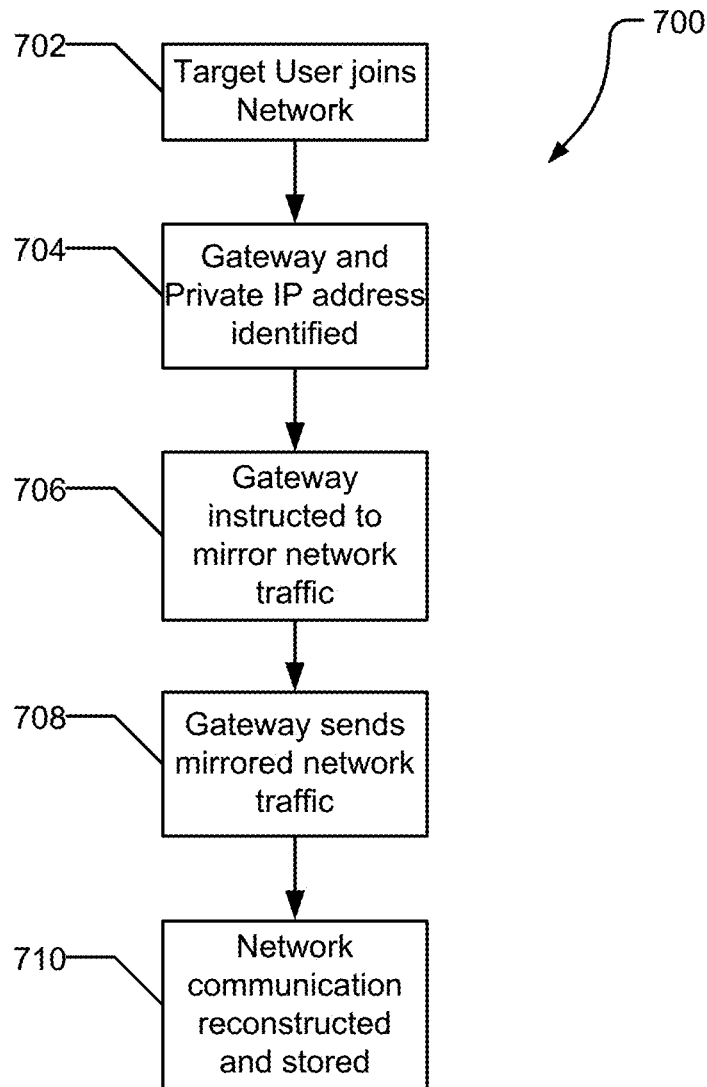


FIG. 7

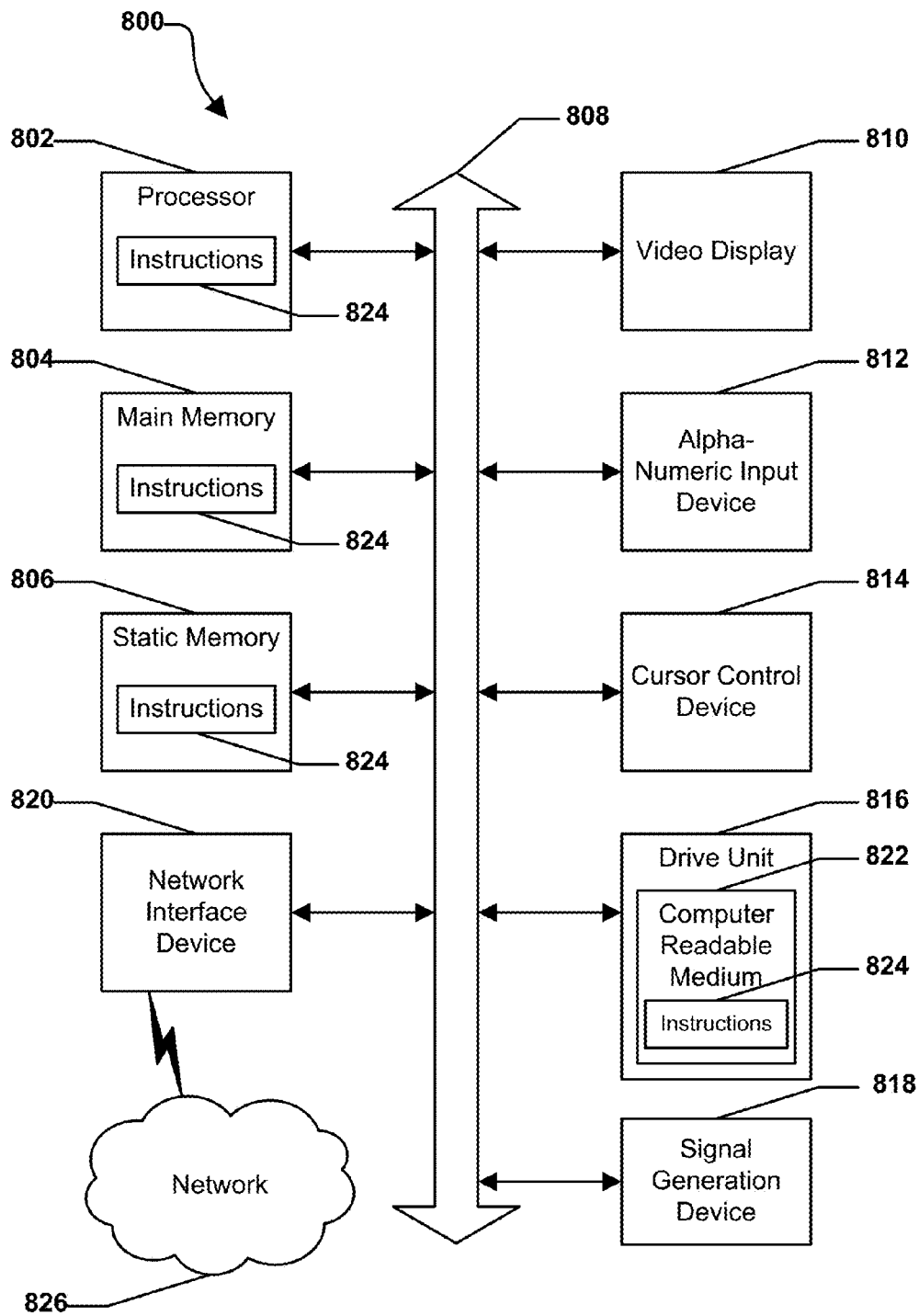


FIG. 8

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SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR LOGGING COMMUNICATIONS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/946,107, filed Nov. 19, 2015, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/877,790, filed Oct. 24, 2007, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,253,148, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure generally relates to communications networks, and more particularly relates to systems and methods for logging communications.

BACKGROUND

The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) requires service providers to assist law enforcement in the performance of electronic surveillance pursuant to a court order or other lawful authorization. However, logging network activity can be a labor intensive and difficult process. A user's Internet Protocol (IP) address can change when the user disconnects a session or re-establishes a session. Additionally, the user's activity may be combined with activity from other users, such as by network address translation (NAT), so as to appear to originate from a single public IP address.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

It will be appreciated that for simplicity and clarity of illustration, elements illustrated in the Figures have not necessarily been drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions of some of the elements are exaggerated relative to other elements. Embodiments incorporating teachings of the present disclosure are shown and described with respect to the drawings presented herein, in which:

FIGS. 1 and 2 depict exemplary embodiments of a communication system;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of an access point;

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a network utilizing NAT;

FIG. 5 is an exemplary embodiment of a NAT table;

FIG. 6 is a flow diagram illustrating a method of capturing traffic of a user in a NAT environment;

FIG. 7 is a flow diagram illustrating an alternate method of capturing traffic of a user in a NAT environment; and

FIG. 8 is an illustrative embodiment of a general computer system.

The use of the same reference symbols in different drawings indicates similar or identical items.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The numerous innovative teachings of the present application will be described with particular reference to the presently preferred exemplary embodiments. However, it should be understood that this class of embodiments provides only a few examples of the many advantageous uses of the innovative teachings herein. In general, statements made in the specification of the present application do not

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necessarily delimit any of the various claimed inventions. Moreover, some statements may apply to some inventive features but not to others.

FIG. 1 depicts an exemplary embodiment of a communication system **100** employing mobile and/or fixed communication devices **102** communicating by way of wireless access points (WAPs) and/or wired infrastructure. The communication system **100** also includes other communication devices and/or a web server or network proxy **104**.

The communication device **102** can be a multimode communication device, such as a multimode Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) terminal. However, the present disclosure contemplates the use of other types of communication devices, including other types of voice, video, and data devices. The communication system **100** includes a packet-switched network, such as an Internet Service Provider (ISP) network **106**. The network **106** can be coupled to the network proxy **104**, a cellular network **108** and network elements located in one or more of the buildings **110** representing an enterprise or residence.

In an enterprise setting, the building **110** can include a gateway **112** that provides voice and/or video connectivity services between communication devices **102**, such as VoIP terminals or other forms of communication devices of enterprise personnel, and other devices of network **106**, such as web servers. In a residential setting, the gateway **112** may be a residential gateway coupled to a central office **114** utilizing conventional telephonic switching for processing calls with third parties.

The network proxy **104** can be used to control operations of a media gateway **116**, the central office **114** and the gateway **112**. Communications between the network proxy **104**, the communication devices **102** and other network elements of the communication system **100** can conform to any number of signaling protocols such as session initiation protocol (SIP), SS7, or a video communications protocol such as H.323 which combines video and voice over a packet-switched network, as well as cryptographic protocols, such as transport layer security (TLS) or secure sockets layer (SSL), to provide secure communications for data transfers.

The network proxy **104** can include a communications interface **118** that utilizes common technology for communication over an IP interface with the communication system **100**, the media gateway **116**, the cellular network **108**, and/or the gateway **112**. By way of the communications interface **118**, the network proxy **104** can direct by common means any of the foregoing network elements to establish packet switched data, voice, and/or video connections between communication devices **102** distributed throughout the communication system **100**. The network proxy **104** can further comprise a memory **120** (such as a high capacity storage medium) embodied in this illustration as a database, and a controller **122**, such as a desktop computer or scalable server, that makes use of computing technology for controlling operations of the network proxy **104**. The network proxy **104** can operate as an IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) conforming in part to protocols defined by standards bodies such as Third Generation Partnership Protocol (3GPP).

Under the control of the network proxy **104**, the media gateway **116** can link packet-switched and circuit-switched technologies such as the cellular network **108** (or central office **114**) and the network **106**, such as an ISP network. The media gateway **116** can conform to a media gateway control protocol (MGCP) also known as H.248 defined by work groups in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). This

protocol can handle signaling and session management needed during a multimedia conference. The protocol defines a means of communication that converts data from the format required for a circuit-switched network to that required for a packet-switched network. MGCP can therefore be used to set up, maintain, and terminate calls between multiple disparate network elements of the communication system **100**. The media gateway **116** can therefore support hybrid communication environments for communication device **102**, including VoIP terminals.

The central office **114** can house common network switching equipment for distributing local and long-distance telecommunication services supplied by network **106** to buildings **110**. Telecommunication services of the central office **114** can include traditional Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) and broadband services such as HDTV, DSL, VoIP, Internet Protocol Television (IPTV), Internet services, and so on. The communication system **100** can utilize common computing and communications technologies to support circuit-switched and/or packet-switched communications.

The cellular network **108** can support voice and data services over a number of access technologies such as GSM-GPRS, EDGE, CDMA-1X, UTMS, WiMAX, software defined radio (SDR), and other known and future technologies. The cellular network **108** can be coupled to base stations **124** under a frequency-reuse plan for communicating over-the-air with roaming communication devices **102**.

FIG. 2 depicts an exemplary embodiment of a communication system **200** employing mobile and/or fixed communications devices **102** communication by way of WAPs and/or wired infrastructure with other communication devices of a network **202** through use of one or more network access servers (NASs) **204**, such as a Broadband Remote Access Server (BRAS). Communication system **200** can be overlaid or operably coupled with communication system **100** as another representative embodiment of the communication system.

NAS **204** can include various components and can utilize various protocols, such as Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP), to communicate with, and provide network access to, the communication devices **102**. NAS **204** can aggregate traffic from a number of access nodes throughout the network **202**, such as Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexers (DSLAMs).

NAS **204** can communicate with a user information server (UIS) or database **206**, such as a Remote Authentication Dial In User Server (RADIUS) server, for authentication, authorization, and/or accounting (AAA) services related to the network access to be provided to each of the communication device **102**. For example, the NAS server **204** can communicate with the UIS **206** any identification information related to the communication device **102** that is requesting access of the network **202**. Various protocols can be utilized for the communication of the identification information such as the RADIUS protocol. The UIS **206** can authenticate the communication device **102** based upon a number of authentication schemes, such as Password Authentication Protocol (PAP), Challenge-Handshake Authentication Protocol (CHAP) or Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP).

UIS **206** can retrieve and maintain other information related to the communication device **102**, such as session's start and/or end time, the number of packets transferred during the session, the volume of data transferred during the session and the reason for the session ending. In one embodiment, the UIS **206** can be a RADIUS server that can be used by VoIP service providers, such as for transmitting

login credentials of a SIP end point (e.g., a broadband phone) to a SIP Registrar using digest authentication, and then to the RADIUS server using RADIUS protocol.

Communication system **200** can include a session information retrieval system **208**, which has a session information database **210** and a session information retriever **212**. The session information retrieval system **208** can be remotely positioned from the NAS **204** and/or the UIS **206**. However, the session information retrieval system **208** may be incorporated into one or both of the NAS **204** and/or the UIS **206**, including sharing one or more components with the NAS **204** and/or UIS **206**. The session information database **210** and session information retriever **212** can include various components (e.g., controller, communication interface, and memory), and can utilize various protocols to communicate with the UIS **206**, as well as with one or more mediation devices **214**, such as a Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) device or server.

FIG. 3 shows an access point (AP) **300**. The AP **300** may be a wireless access point, such as the WAP **178** or a gateway, such as the gateway **112**. The AP **300** can have a processor **302**, a WAN interface **304**, a LAN interface **306**, and a memory **308**. The WAN interface **304** can connect to a network, such as network **106**, through a coax cable, a twisted pair, a fiber optic cable, or a wireless link. Communication devices **102**, such as computers, VoIP telephones, and set top boxes, can connect to the LAN interface **306** such as through a coax cable, a twisted pair, a fiber optic cable, or a wireless link. The AP **300** can provide network services to the LAN devices, such as firewall services, routing services, dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) services, NAT services, and domain name system (DNS) services.

In an exemplary embodiment, the AP **300** may communicate with a UIS, such as UIS **206**. A communication device **102** may authenticate with the UIS **206** in order to access the public network. Upon authentication, the UIS **206** can instruct the AP **300** to provide network resources to the communication device **102**. Additionally, the AP **300** may provide NAT services, as described in more detail below.

FIGS. 4 and 5 illustrate an exemplary embodiment of a network utilizing NAT. The AP **300** can connect LAN devices **404** and **406**, such as communication devices **102**, to the public network **408**, such as the Internet. AP **300** may have a public IP address of 12.2.2.1 and a private IP address of 192.168.1.100. Device **404** may have a private IP address of 192.168.1.1 and device **406** may have a private IP address of 192.168.1.2. A public IP address can be routable from the public network **408** whereas a private IP address may not be routable from the public network **408**. The NAT provided by AP **300** allows devices **404** and **406** to utilize the public IP address of the AP **300** when communicating with devices on the public network **408**.

When device **404** sends a request to a device on the public network **408**, AP **300** can replace the source IP address, i.e., the private IP address of device **404**, with the public IP address of AP **300**. Additionally, the AP **300** may replace the source port of device **404** with a NAT port of the AP **300**. When a reply is sent to the public IP address and the NAT port of AP **300**, AP **300** can replace the destination IP address, i.e., the public IP address of the AP **300**, with the private IP address of device **404**. Additionally, the AP **300** can replace the destination port, i.e., the NAT port of the AP **300**, with the port of device **404**. The AP **300** may forward the modified reply to the device **404**.

The AP **300** can store NAT information in a NAT table, such as exemplary NAT table **500** shown in FIG. 5. The NAT table **500** stores information in a NAT table entry **502** for

each of a plurality of connections. For each NAT table entry **502**, the NAT table **500** can include a private IP address **504** and a private port **506** for device **404** or **406**, a NAT address **508** and a NAT port **510** of the AP **300**, and a server IP address **512** and a server port **514** for a server communicating with device **404** or **406**. When the AP **300** receives an incoming packet, the AP **300** may match the source address, source port, destination address, and destination port of the incoming packet to the respective server IP **512**, server port **514**, NAT address **508**, and NAT port **510** of a NAT table entry **502**. When the AP **300** receives an outgoing packet, the AP **300** may match the source address, source port, destination address, and destination port of the outgoing packet to the respective private IP **504**, private port **506**, server IP address **512**, and server port **514** of a NAT table entry **502**.

FIG. 6 illustrates an exemplary method for capturing traffic of a user in a NAT environment. At **602**, the target user can join a network. In a wireless environment, the target user may be required to provide a wireless network password. Alternatively, the wireless network may be an open network and wireless traffic may rely on other methods for security. For example, the entire session may be secured, such as by using a virtual private network (VPN), or individual communications may be secured, such as through the use of various cryptographic protocols. Further, the target user's device may request a private IP address from the AP **300**, such as by DHCP. Additionally, authentication may be required before the target user can access the network. For example, the UIS **206** may authenticate the target user based on various authentication schemes. At **604**, the AP **300** and the private IP address may be identified to be associated with a target user. For example, the session information retrieval system **208** may receive active session information from the UIS **206** and compare the active session information to a list of targeted users. The UIS **206** may provide the active session information each time a communications device **116** is authenticated, or the UIS **206** may provide all current active session information on a periodic basis. Alternatively, the session information retrieval system **208** may periodically query the UIS **206** to determine active session information related to target users. The active session information can include an AP identifier.

The AP **300** can be instructed to provide the NAT table entries associated with the private IP address of the target user, as illustrated at **606**. At **608**, the AP can provide the NAT table entries. For example, the AP **300** may provide all NAT table entries associated with a private IP address. Alternatively, the AP **300** may provide only NAT table entries associated with the private IP address matching specific types of network traffic, such as email, VoIP, or P2P file sharing. The NAT table entries can be provided to the session information retrieval system or to a logging device, such as through a connection secured by various cryptographic protocols. The logging device may be incorporated into NAS **204** or may be a separate device capable of logging traffic passing through the NAS **204**. Alternatively, the logging device may be located anywhere upstream of the NAS **204** or between the NAS **204** and the AP **300** such that the logging device is capable of accessing substantially all traffic going to and from the AP **300**. As illustrated at **610**, the logging device may capture network traffic matching the NAT table entries provided by the AP **300**. At **612**, the captured network traffic can be used to reconstruct network communication of the target user and the network communication can be stored for additional analysis. The captured network traffic may be reconstructed and stored by any of the logging device, the session information retrieval system

208, or the mediation device **214**. Additionally, communication between any of the logging device, the session information retrieval system **208**, or the mediation device **214** can be secured using various cryptographic protocols.

FIG. 7 illustrates an alternate method for capturing network traffic of a user in a NAT environment. At **702**, the target user can join the network, as previously discussed. At **704**, the private IP address and the AP **300** associated with the target user may be identified. The AP **300** may be instructed to mirror the network traffic of the target user, as shown at **706**. The AP **300** may send copies of all network packets related to the target user's device to a logging device, as shown at **708**. The logging device may be the session information retrieval system **208**, the mediation device **275**, or another device for receiving the mirrored network traffic. Communication between the AP **300** and the logging device can be encrypted through various cryptographic protocols. At **710**, the logging device can reconstruct the network communication from the copies of the network packets and store the network communication for further analysis. When the logging device is separate from the mediation device **214**, the reconstructed network communication may be sent to the mediation device **214**, or the mediation device **214** may be provided access to the reconstructed network communication stored on the surveillance server. Typically, access to the reconstructed network communication is read-only access in order to preserve the forensic value of the reconstructed network communication.

FIG. 8 shows an illustrative embodiment of a general computer system **800**. The computer system **800** can include a set of instructions that can be executed to cause the computer system to perform any one or more of the methods or computer based functions disclosed herein. The computer system **800** may operate as a standalone device or may be connected, such as by using a network, to other computer systems or peripheral devices.

In a networked deployment, the computer system may operate in the capacity of a server or as a client user computer in a server-client user network environment, or as a peer computer system in a peer-to-peer (or distributed) network environment. The computer system **800** can also be implemented as or incorporated into various devices, such as a personal computer (PC), a tablet PC, an STB, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a mobile device, a palmtop computer, a laptop computer, a desktop computer, a communications device, a wireless telephone, a land-line telephone, a control system, a camera, a scanner, a facsimile machine, a printer, a pager, a personal trusted device, a web appliance, a network router, switch or bridge, or any other machine capable of executing a set of instructions (sequential or otherwise) that specify actions to be taken by that machine. In a particular embodiment, the computer system **800** can be implemented using electronic devices that provide voice, video or data communication. Further, while a single computer system **800** is illustrated, the term "system" shall also be taken to include any collection of systems or sub-systems that individually or jointly execute a set, or multiple sets, of instructions to perform one or more computer functions.

The computer system **800** may include a processor **802**, such as a central processing unit (CPU), a graphics processing unit (GPU), or both. Moreover, the computer system **800** can include a main memory **804** and a static memory **806** that can communicate with each other via a bus **808**. As shown, the computer system **800** may further include a video display unit **810** such as a liquid crystal display (LCD), an organic light emitting diode (OLED), a flat panel display, a solid state display, or a cathode ray tube (CRT). Addition-

ally, the computer system **800** may include an input device **812** such as a keyboard, and a cursor control device **814** such as a mouse. The computer system **800** can also include a disk drive unit **816**, a signal generation device **818** such as a speaker or remote control, and a network interface device **820** to communicate with a network **826**. In a particular embodiment, the disk drive unit **816** may include a computer-readable medium **822** in which one or more sets of instructions **824**, such as software, can be embedded. Further, the instructions **824** may embody one or more of the methods or logic as described herein. In a particular embodiment, the instructions **824** may reside completely, or at least partially, within the main memory **804**, the static memory **806**, and/or within the processor **802** during execution by the computer system **800**. The main memory **804** and the processor **802** also may include computer-readable media.

The illustrations of the embodiments described herein are intended to provide a general understanding of the structure of the various embodiments. The illustrations are not intended to serve as a complete description of all of the elements and features of apparatus and systems that utilize the structures or methods described herein. Many other embodiments may be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reviewing the disclosure. Other embodiments may be utilized and derived from the disclosure, such that structural and logical substitutions and changes may be made without departing from the scope of the disclosure. Additionally, the illustrations are merely representational and may not be drawn to scale. Certain proportions within the illustrations may be exaggerated, while other proportions may be minimized. Accordingly, the disclosure and the FIGs. are to be regarded as illustrative rather than restrictive.

The Abstract of the Disclosure is provided to comply with 27 C.F.R. §1.72(b) and is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to interpret or limit the scope or meaning of the claims. In addition, in the foregoing Detailed Description of the Drawings, various features may be grouped together or described in a single embodiment for the purpose of streamlining the disclosure. This disclosure is not to be interpreted as reflecting an intention that the claimed embodiments require more features than are expressly recited in each claim. Rather, as the following claims reflect, inventive subject matter may be directed to less than all of the features of any of the disclosed embodiments. Thus, the following claims are incorporated into the Detailed Description of the Drawings, with each claim standing on its own as defining separately claimed subject matter.

The above disclosed subject matter is to be considered illustrative, and not restrictive, and the appended claims are intended to cover all such modifications, enhancements, and other embodiments which fall within the true spirit and scope of the present disclosed subject matter. Thus, to the maximum extent allowed by law, the scope of the present disclosed subject matter is to be determined by the broadest permissible interpretation of the following claims and their equivalents, and shall not be restricted or limited by the foregoing detailed description.

What is claimed is:

1. A system, comprising:

a memory that stores instructions;

a processor that executes the instructions to perform operations, the operations comprising:

determining when a target user is active by comparing active session information to a list of users, wherein the active session information is received in response to a device of the target user being authenticated,

wherein the active session information comprises an indication as to a quantity of packets transferred during a session associated with the active session information and a volume of data transferred during the session; and

logging, at an access point and after determining when the target user is active, traffic information including a network address translation table entry associated with a private internet protocol address of the target user, wherein the network address translation table entry is included in the traffic information when the network address translation table entry matches a network traffic type associated with the private internet protocol address.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise identifying the access point when the target user is determined to be active.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise identifying the private internet protocol address associated with the target user when the target user is determined to be active.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise receiving the active session information on a periodic basis.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise reconstructing a communication of the target user based on the traffic information.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the active session information further comprises an indication as to a reason for ending the session.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise identifying the access point when network traffic associated with the target user is peer-to-peer network traffic.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise identifying the private internet protocol address associated with the target user when network traffic associated with the target user is peer-to-peer network traffic.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise performing a translation between the private internet protocol address and a public internet protocol address associated with the access point.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise causing the access point to replace a network address translation port of the access point with a port of the device.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the operations further comprise instructing the access point to provide a network resource to the device.

12. A method, comprising:

determining, by utilizing instructions from a memory that are executed by a processor, when a target user is active by comparing active session information to a list of users, wherein the active session information is received in response to a device of the target user being authenticated, wherein the active session information comprises an indication as to a quantity of packets transferred during a session associated with the active session information and a volume of data transferred during the session; and

logging, at an access point and after determining when the target user is active, traffic information including a network address translation table entry associated with a private internet protocol address of the target user, wherein the network address translation table entry is included in the traffic information when the network

address translation table entry matches a network traffic type associated with the private internet protocol address.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising identifying the access point when the target user is determined to be active.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising instructing the access point to provide a network resource to the device.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising performing a translation between the private internet protocol address and a public internet protocol address associated with the access point.

16. The method of claim 12, further comprising reconstructing a communication of the target user based on the traffic information.

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising receiving the active session information on a periodic basis.

18. The method of claim 12, further comprising identifying the private internet protocol address associated with the target user when the target user is determined to be active.

19. The method of claim 12, further comprising causing the access point to replace a network address translation port of the access point with a port of the device.

20. A non-transitory computer-readable medium comprising instructions, which, when loaded and executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations, the operations comprising:

determining when a target user is active by comparing active session information to a list of users, wherein the active session information is received in response to a device of the target user being authenticated, wherein the active session information comprises an indication as to a quantity of packets transferred during a session associated with the active session information and a volume of data transferred during the session; and

storing, at an access point and after determining when the target user is active, traffic information including a network address translation table entry associated with a private internet protocol address of the target user, wherein the network address translation table entry is included in the traffic information when the network address translation table entry matches a network traffic type associated with the private internet protocol address.

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